

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RABAT 04770 041056Z

15

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

----- 125361

R 040940Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6618

INFO AMCONSUL TANGIER

UNCLAS RABAT 4770

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC MO

SUBJECT: TANGIER LEGATION/MUSEUM PROPOSAL

REF: A. EMB A-54, MAY 7, 75; B. STATE 165808

1. IN RESPONSE EMB SUGGESTION (REF A) DEPT PROVIDED GRANT TO SEND AMSPECIALIST JOHN J. SLOCUM (REF B) TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY ON PROPOSAL TO CONVERT FORMER U.S. LEGATION BUILDING IN TANGIER INTO MUSEUM OF MOROCCAN-AMERICAN HISTORY. SLOCUM HAS COMPLETED STUDY AND SUBMITTED REPORT, COPY OF WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO CU/NEA. STUDY CONVINCES EMBASSY THAT THIS PROJECT CAN SUCCEED AND COULD WELL PROVE TO BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE TO TAKE PLACE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY.

2. AS RESULT OF GROUNDWORK LAID BY AMBASSADOR AND STAFF, SLOCUM'S CONTACTS WITH GOM OFFICIALS WERE GREATLY FACILITATED. LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH ROYAL HISTORIO-GRAPHER AND ARCHIVIST ABDELWAHAB BENMANSOUR, MINFONAFF AND MINCULTURE OFFICIALS AND OTHER REVEAL ENTHUSIASTIC ACCEPTANCE OF CONCEPT UP TO HIGHEST GOM LEVEL. INDEED, BENMANSOUR INFORMS THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN INSTRUCTED BY KING TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER RAMADAN TO GATHER DOCUMENTS AND ARTIFACTS FROM ROYAL ARCHIVES FOR PREPARATION OF GOM EXHIBIT ON MOROCCAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS TO COINCIDE WITH U.S. BICENTENNIAL. BENMANSOUR STATES GOM ALSO PLANNING BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FEATURING LIKENESSES OF WASHINGTON AND SULTAN MOHAMED III. ALTHOUGH BENMANSOUR SEEMS SO FAR TO BE MOVING ALONG LINES PARALLEL TO OUR PROPOSAL, WE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 RABAT 04770 041056Z

BELIEVE FUTURE EVOLUTION OF MUSEUM PROJECT AND NEED FOR

ACQUISITION OF DOCUMENTS AND ARTIFACTS FROM AMERICAN SOURCES WILL BEGIN TO MAKE PARALLEL LINES MERGE TO OUR BENEFIT. BENMANSOUR'S PRELIMINARY SEARCHES ALREADY PRODUCING DOCUMENTS NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY SCHOLARS.

3. HISTORY SHOWS THAT MOROCCO WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY AFTER FRANCE TO RECOGNIZE THE WARRING COLONIALISTS AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY (1778). FURTHERMORE, FROM THE TIME OF WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON AND ADAMS MOROCCAN FRIENDSHIP REMAINED FIRM EVEN DURING OUR WARS WITH THE BARBARY PIRATES OF ALGIERS, TUNIS AND TRIPOLI. THIS FRIENDSHIP IN A SENSE WAS CEMENTED WHEN SULTAN OF MOROCCO IN 1821 GAVE THE OLD LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES, A BUILDING THAT IS NOT ONLY THE LONGEST-HELD UNITED STATES PROPERTY ABROAD BUT ALSO A UNIQUE SYMBOL OF OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH A FOREIGN STATE.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES LAUNCHING MOROCCAN/AMERICAN MUSEUM WITH BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION CAN BE WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN THE ARAB WORLD THROUGH ARAB CHANNELS AS EVIDENCE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AN ARAB POWER LONG BEFORE THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PRODUCED ARAB CHARGES THAT UNITED STATES SYMPATHIES ARE ONE-SIDED. EXHIBITS IN LOW KEY WOULD UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IN BOTH THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES CHAMPIONED MOROCCAN INTEREST IN THE FACE OF COLONIAL ASPIRATIONS. GIVEN THE BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL DESCRIBED ABOVE, EMBASSY CAN CONCEIVE OF NO SINGLE PROJECT WHICH WOULD BETTER EXEMPLIFY THE TEHEME OF "TWO CENTRUY ARAB-AMERICAN DIALOGUE" NOW BEING STRESSED IN USIA PLANNING FOR THE COMING YEAR. MOREOVER, IT WILL BE NOT RPT NOT A ONE-TIME EFFORT BUT A LASTING MONUMENT AS WELL.

5. BECAUSE OF THE TIME FACTOR INVOLVED, THE EMBASSY NEEDS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND NEVER MORE SO THAN RIGHT NOW WITH RESPECT TO THE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MUST BE MADE BEFORE AN APPEAL FOR PRIVATE FUNDS CAN BE STARTED. TO BE SPECIFIC, WE NEED THE DEPT'S HELP IN ARRANGING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE MOROCCAN/AMERICAN MUSEUM IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR AN AMERICAN ADDRESS FOR THE MUSEUM (NECESSARY FOR TAX DEDUCTIBILITY PURPOSES) AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE MUSEUM BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO ENABLE DONORS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 RABAT 04770 041056Z

TO DEDUCT THEIR GIFTS ON THEIR TAX RETURNS. IN ADDITION WE UNDERSTAND APPROXIMATELY \$1,000 WILL BE NEEDED TO COVER THE LEGAL FEES AND COURT COSTS INVOLVED IN INCORPORATING THE MUSEUM. CAN CU ASSIST US IN MAKING THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND COULD IT GRANT THE FUNDS NEEDED TO COVER THE UNAVOIDABLE LEGAL AND COURT EXPENSES? AN URGENT AND HOPEFULLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE IS REQUESTED SINCE THE REALIZATION OF THIS PROJECT WILL DEPEND TO A VERY LARGE MEASURE ON THE SPEED WITH WHICH THESE

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

6. SLOCUM DEPARTED THIS MORNING. EXPECTS TO RETURN HOME
(NEWPORT, R.I.) O/A OCTOBER 20. HAS GENEROUSLY OFFERED TO
CONTINUE CONDUCTING CERTAIN PERTINENT HISTORICAL RESEARCH
ON HIS OWN AND TO PROVIDE DEPT WITH VOLUNTEER ADVICE ON
PROJECT AS AND WHEN HIS OTHER COMMITMENTS WILL PERMIT.
SLOCUM WAS IDEAL CHOICE FOR AMSPECIALIST GRANT, AND DEPT'S
ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD GREATLY APPRECIATED.COON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT04770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750345-0539
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751082/aaaacuzo.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 165808
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 OCT 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TANGIER LEGATION/MUSEUM PROPOSAL
TAGS: OEXC, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006